(b) for what purpose was such allowance given and on what calculation;

(c) is such allowance now given to them; if not, when and why was it stopped?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a), (b) and (c). The information is being collected.

96. Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any idea of giving pension to those copyists who had retired since 1087 and now living, and to those in service when they retire?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government propose to keep an open mind till the resolution on the subject tabled for this session is considered by the Council.

97. Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that copyists in Civil Courts in British India are given an allowance while in service and also pension from the date of their retirement?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No.

Motion regarding the official conduct of the Excise Superintendent.

98. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether they are aware that owing to the official conduct of the present Superintendent of Excise, the Hon'ble Member from Vyttila, had tabled a token motion during the last budget session, to censure the Superintendent's conduct;

(b) whether they are aware that the President of the Legislative Council announced at the closing of the Council that he would consider the desirability of taking steps to expunge the proceedings of the Council with reference to the censure motion on the ground the Council has no right to censure any officer of the Government;

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government towards the expunging of the objectionable portions from the official proceedings of the Council;

(d) is the Government aware of the particulars of the official conduct animadverted to in the censure motion above stated;

(e) if so, will the Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been made by them as to the correctness or otherwise of the conduct of the Excise Superintendent, with reference to the promotion or degradation of the officials concerned in this case;

(f) has the Government called for any report on the matter;

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(g) if so, will they be pleased to place the same on the table;

(h) has the Diwan placed a copy of the debate of this censure motion before His Highness the Maharaja officially?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The Government have read the Proceedings of the meeting in which the token motion was discussed, and gathered from his speech the object the mover had in placing it before the House.

(b) The Government are aware that what the President stated then was that "he may probably have to expunge all the remarks relating to this matter from the Council Proceedings."

(c) No steps were taken.

(d) Yes.

(e) No enquiry was made.

(f) No.

(g) Vide answer to (f).

(h) No.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—(d) 'Government are aware of the particulars'; may we know what they are?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar—What are the particulars wanted?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether it was in the so-called censure motion, or whatever that may be, the Government are aware of the particulars. But that is not the particular I ask. I ask the particulars of the official conduct animadverted to.

President.—The official conduct was animadverted to in the speeches on the censure motion, and the Government, you see, were aware of it. Are you asking for any facts?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes.

President.—Then that must be asked again.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—My question is whether the Government ascertained the particulars to my question, whether the Government were aware; they say 'yes.'

President.—Government were aware of these particulars because they were made in open Council.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think there is some mistake. I am not speaking about the speeches in the House. I am asking particulars of some conduct animadverted to and whether they are aware of the particular conduct.

President.—At what time?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Subsequently.

The question was understood only as to whether they are correct or not; that was my question. I wanted to know facts about the official conduct.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—By your answer it appears that you were aware of what took place in the House only; may I know

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whether the Government is prepared to enquire into the matter?

President.— Government do not find any reason to enquire.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is it because that the Government thinks that it is absolutely unnecessary to enquire.

President.—Government do not find reason to make an enquiry.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, that when conducts of officers are called into question either by petition or representation Government do not wish to enquire?

President.—They do.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They do enquire. Then may I understand that when the Legislative Council called into question the conduct of an officer, his conduct was not enquired into by the Government?

President.—It has not necessitated an enquiry by the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May we know the reasons?

President.—No special circumstances.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What kind of special circumstances are necessary, Sir, for an enquiry?

President.—It is not capable of further elaboration.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—(f) Whether any explanation was called for.

President.—No explanation was called for.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether the Diaries of the Heads of Departments regarding their conduct and their official life throughout the year do not go to His Highness officially?

President.—The tour Diaries of the Diwan and certain other officers are submitted to His Highness.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether the Excise Superintendent's Diary is also submitted?

President.—Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—When his conduct was animadverted to in the Council, may we know whether that was not placed before His Highness?

President.—Only tour Diaries are placed before His Highness; They would not contain these.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Was not the whole Diary submitted?

President.—The Diwan did not consider it necessary to place it before His Highness.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it the President to answer these questions?

President.—Many times that has been done, and any Government Member may answer. You want only information. It

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does not matter whether it comes from me or from any other Government Member.

Mr. A. B. Salem.— Should not the official conducts of Heads of Departments go before His Highness? Generally—I may put in a stronger language though I was using only very mild language—if there is any official misconduct on the part of any of the Heads of Departments should it not go before His Highness?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then why was this official conduct not placed before His Highness?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—A copy of the printed Proceedings will be placed before His Highness.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—After how many days, I say months, or years since will the printing be over? It was an official misconduct.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—From that the Government may differ.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I do think it a misconduct. A censure motion was passed on the official misconduct of the Superintendent of Excise Revenue on the floor of this House.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—So it is an unparliamentary expression.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We have been hearing some such expression from the other side also. We are not strangers to such expression from the other side.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I put as mildly as possible. I shall put it as the alleged misconduct, or I shall put it more mildly if you want it. I ask, the alleged misconduct or official conducts of Heads of Departments brought before this House, should it not have been placed before His Highness? They are His Highness' officers, May we know the reason why that was not done?

President.— What is the information that is wanted now?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether any alleged conduct animadverted to in this House on a censure motion on the Head of a Department, why that was not placed before His Highness?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—If the Government is satisfied with the official conduct animadverted to, it may be placed before His Highness.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—And the allegations made before this House on the Head of a Department are not placed before His Highness?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Usually they are placed by the Diwan before His Highness after the printing of the Proceedings, and that is the proper procedure also.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—But you say no enquiry was made at all. You did not even care to look into the matter animadverted to in this House. May we know whether it is not the practice to inform His Highness immediately as things take place here ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was necessary to make an enquiry.

President.—I submit immediate report to His Highness each day. I submit a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Council. It has been my practice all along.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am very glad to hear that from you. If only the printed copy is placed before His Highness we would have been very sorry.

Deputy President's letter to the President regarding the expunging of a portion of the Council Proceedings.

99. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the letter sent by the Deputy President of the Legislative Council to the President on 20th Karkadagam 1102 regarding the expunging of a portion of the Council Proceedings and what was the reply of the Government in the matter ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government is not in possession of the letter of the Deputy President referred to in the question and no reply has been sent by the Government in the matter.

100. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Members' table the correspondence that took place between the President and the Deputy President of the Legislative Council about certain statements made by the President in the last budget session ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government are not in possession of the correspondence referred to.

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